

PRINTS of PEACE

VOLUME XLXIII, Number 8

AUGUST 2020



IN-PERSON SERVICES CONTINUE!

Join us for services on
Sunday mornings at 8:00am or 10:15am and
on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

***Anyone entering the building must wear a face covering and
maintain social distancing.***

So you can follow along with the service, prior to each Sunday,
we will email the worship bulletin in advance to the congregation.

For those individuals who have reservations about returning,
we will continue to live stream the Sunday morning 10:15am service
through our Facebook GROUP page, which can be found on our
Facebook PAGE (www.facebook.com/princeofpeacehowellnj)



Pastor's surplice was pure cotton,
and the moths had had four months.

AUGUST DEADLINE

If you have an article that you would like placed
in the September 2020 newsletter, please email it
or drop it off in the church office.

The church email address is
popchurch@optonline.net.

The deadline is Monday, August 24, 2020

RALLY DAY PICNIC

It is unfortunate, but due to gathering
restrictions, we will have to postpone our Rally
Day Picnic until it is safe for us to gather again.

Hopefully that will be soon!

**The mission of Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church is to know
Christ and inspire people
to be caring instruments of
God in spreading Christ's love,
with joyous enthusiasm,
by word and deed.**

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK - August 2020



Dear members of Prince of Peace

Dear members of Prince of Peace

In my studies this month I read the following passage. It reminds me that we can avoid seeing what is right in front of our eyes by just willing it away.

Reflecting on James 1:22-25: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

"What is required in order to look at oneself with true blessing in the mirror of the Word? The first requirement is that you must not look at the mirror, observe the mirror, but must see yourself in the mirror. This seems so obvious that one might think that it would scarcely need to be said. Yet it is certainly necessary; and what confirms me in this opinion is that this remark was not made by me...but was made by a witness to the truth... He warns against the error of observing the mirror instead of seeing oneself in the mirror. I merely make use of the remark and ask you, my listener. Does it not seem to be coined for our times and our situation?... We should not look at the mirror but see ourselves in the mirror..."

The second requirement is that in order to see yourself in the mirror when you read God's Word you must...remember to say to yourself incessantly. It is I to whom it is speaking; it is I about whom it is speaking.... If God's Word is for you merely a doctrine, something impersonal and objective, then it is no mirror...

Finally, if you want to look at yourself in the mirror with true blessing, you must not promptly forget how you looked, you must not be the forgetful hearer (or reader) of whom the apostle says: He looked at his bodily face in a mirror but promptly forgot how he looked.... The best thing to do, therefore, is promptly, at this very moment, I promise myself and God – even if it is just for the next hour or for this very day – this long it shall be certain that I do not forget." Soren Kierkegaard, For Self Examination/ Judge for Yourselves (Kierkegaard's Writings, vol. 21), translated by Howard Hong (Princeton University Press, 1990) pp. 25ff.

At the present time we have a lot of people who forget the nation's motto: "e pluribus unum," or out of many one. People are under pressure from job worries, racial tensions, police practices, the upcoming election, and the 900 pound gorilla in the room the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than pulling together we seem to be going in all sort of directions.

The Church has something to say about this. For two thousand years as nations rise and fall, as diseases fell millions, or as new discoveries change everyone's perception of the world we have been able to affirm the truth that: "There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). We share "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). Even though we have had to amend our communion practices so that we only offer individual communion cups we still share the one body and blood of the Lord. Other changes may have to be made but we will remain one in the Lord.

If you have been feeling cut off please know that that is not ever our intention. Make your feelings known and I will do what I can so that you know that you are all necessary to the life of this community.

As I write this I want to note that Kenneth and Ellen French are moving this month and will not be physically a regular part of our community in the future. I want to honor our shared past and to reaffirm that they are a part of this congregation. In the future many of the things that we do will have been formed and informed by their presence in our midst. I will miss them but will continue to hold them in my heart. May God go with them and keep them safe in their new home.

And may God continue to bless us all and keep us safe during this pandemic and all of the other stresses that we face.

Yours truly

Pastor Ken Fosse

Summer Planning

Stewardship includes "Time, Talent and Treasure" - year round! Please keep in mind that during the summer, our utility bills and salaries remain constant, even when church attendance is lower. Therefore, if you are unable to attend in person due to COVID-19, we would very much appreciate it if you could mail in your contributions. Everything we have comes from God, so let's remember to include him in our summer plans. Have a blessed summer!

Caregiver Volunteers

Caregiver volunteers are slowly resuming their transportation and grocery shopping services! In August, they will slowly be accepting new receivers into their programs. They will be performing outdoor assessments with masks in order to ensure the safety of all of their volunteers and receivers! Thank you for your patience with us through this unprecedented time, and for your unwavering support of Caregiver Volunteers. We look forward to working together with you again to provide services to seniors in our community!

If you know someone who could use their services or would like to speak to a staff member please call their office at, 732-505-2273.

If you are interested in volunteering, they are now offering Virtual Volunteer Training via zoom! Volunteers can now be trained in the comfort of their own homes!! They guarantee guilt free volunteering and a multitude of volunteer opportunities. To find out more about volunteering or to sign up for an online training visit their website, www.caregivervolunteers.org or e mail info@caregivervolunteers.org

Lutheran Witness

Would you like to be a subscriber to the Lutheran Witness magazine? Each subscription is \$11.25 per year. The Lutheran Witness is the go-to magazine for interpreting the contemporary world from a Lutheran perspective. Learn to think and speak like a Lutheran on topics like faith, culture, family and everything in between. Interested? Just call the church office at 732-363-0732 before September 1st to let us know you would like a subscription.

Backpack Collection underway through August 20th

Our food pantry, The Helping Hand, will be collecting backpacks, school supplies and kid friendly snack items for those in need in our community. If you would like to contribute, you may place items in the collection bin outside the back doors of the church sanctuary or drop off during service times. If you are in need or know of someone in need, please direct message our Facebook page or email the church office (popchurch@optonline.net.)



"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

During our time together, we will explore God's truth concerning the main categories of human existence: truth concerning the nature and orientation of God, the nature of the world around us, the nature and orientation of humankind, the basis and nature of truth, how a person is to live in the presence of God and in the presence of other human beings, and the role that the Christian faith is to have in 21st century society.

LIVE VIA ZOOM WEBINAR ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 2020
PRESENTER DR. TONY STEINBRONN



TUESDAY 8-11-20
7:30 pm

You can register for this webinar online through the NJ District website
www.njdistrict.org

Stewardship Newsletter Article for August 2020

(Reprinted from the LCMS website)

Winston Churchill reportedly said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



GRADUATION NEWS

Emily Marion Pereira, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma, graduated in December 2019, with a dual major in Performing Arts and Business.

Quinn Pasquale O’Neill graduated from Manasquan High School, Manasquan, class of 2020. He will be attending University of Tampa to major in Business.

Congratulations to Sherri and Paul O’Neill retiring from The Howell Township School District, moving to Naples, Florida in August. Please keep them in your prayers to keep them safe during the pandemic in Florida.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

We wish all our 2020 graduates much success and a bright future!



Ken and Ellen French will be moving to Delaware in August. We will truly miss them, but wish them all the best in their new home. Please join us at church on Sunday, August 9th, after the 10:15am service, where we will have an outdoor gathering to have a “socially distant” send off for them. There will be desserts served by one person only. If you like, bring a chair and we can have “socially distant fellowship.” If that is too much for you, you are welcome to drive by and wave! Whatever your comfort level, please come by to wish them well.



As the weather grows warmer, and we head outdoors to enjoy more activities such as walking, cycling, running, and swimming, all while social/physical distancing of course, I wanted to send along some sun safety tips that you can share with your loved ones. Skin cancer awareness is vital for all ages, and simple, practical, prevention steps should become part of your daily routine.

Growing up in a beach town on Long Island, NY, I spent the first few years of my life, plopped in the sand of the many beaches and state parks. I can't recall ever wearing sunscreen during those years. My brother and I were always swimming and exploring nature. This was before the advent of cell phones and gaming systems, and our childhoods reflected that in our daily outdoor life. My love for the outdoors remained strong throughout my life.

A few years ago, after returning home from a trip to Bermuda, I went to see my dermatologist for a regular skin check. It was during that visit to the dermatologist that I was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of my left leg. Since this diagnosis, I have been blessed by God to be followed closely by a wonderful team of skin cancer specialists at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, in Basking Ridge, NJ. The skin cancer center in Basking Ridge is a wonderful resource if you are looking for exceptional skin cancer care.

Wearing sunscreen, hats, cover-ups and long sleeves has become an important part of our daily routine, both for myself, and for my family. The American Cancer Society recommends getting screened for skin cancer every 12 months. So many people I speak with as a parish nurse are diligent about going for their necessary health screenings, yet often when I ask about their skin checks, they admit that this particular screening they sometimes forgo. Here are some statistics that I pray will help you to always wear your sunscreen and hats, and always go for your annual skin checks:

"Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States and worldwide.

1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70.

More than 2 people die of skin cancer in the U.S. every hour.

Having 5 or more sunburns doubles your risk for melanoma.

When detected early, the 5-year survival rate for melanoma is 99 percent." (The Skin Cancer Foundation)

Knowing the ABCDE's of skin cancer can also help you to do monthly self checks of your skin. Qualities to look for:

- A~ Asymmetry - One half of the mole doesn't match the other half
- B~ Borders - Irregular borders
- C~ Colors - Color that is not uniform
- D~ Diameter - Diameter greater than 6mm (about the size of a pencil eraser)
- E~ Evolving - Changes in size, shape, color, or bleeding or itching of a mole

God bless your summer!

In His service,
 Colleen Bottcher RN, BSN, FCN
 NJ District LCMS Parish Nurse
 Serving at:
 Our Savior Lutheran Church
 22-15 Broadway, Fair Lawn, NJ

Faith in the public square: US Supreme Court decisions impact religious principles, freedom

By Cheryl Magness, managing Editor of the Reporter, the Official Newspaper of the LCMS

Recent rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court, some supportive of religious freedom and some not, are drawing the attention of churches and other faith-based nonprofits, including The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Synod leaders have been closely following the rulings and their potential impact on Christians' free exercise of their religion.

Bostock v. Clayton County

On June 15, in a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Title VII's prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of "race, color, religion, sex, or national origin" — part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — also applies to discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity." Justice Brett Kavanaugh dissented, asserting that the Court went beyond its proper role of interpreting the law and, in changing a definition to include meanings the U.S. Congress has rejected multiple times, rewrote the law. This is a "transgression of the Constitution's separation of powers," Kavanaugh wrote.

Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas also dissented, stating, "There is only one word for what the Court has done today: legislation."

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL), called the ruling "outrageous" in its relegation of "Christian citizens to second-class status in their own country."

"[The church] is always accused of imposing our view on people, and it's exactly the opposite," Seltz said, adding that "the fundamental truths of biological differences ... have just been made illegal" if they are held to, by an organization, as the single correct view.

The Rev. Jonathan Lange, editor of the Synod's Free to Be Faithful newsletter, noted that the ruling could have widespread implications not only for the church but for the culture: "Among the questions left unanswered are whether men's access to women's dressing rooms and sports leagues will be mandated ... [whether] female students and women escaping from domestic violence will be forced to share dorm rooms and living quarters with men," and whether doctors might be sued for refusing to operate on or remove healthy sex organs.

June Medical Services LLC v. Russo

On June 29, in a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional a Louisiana law requiring that medical personnel who perform abortions at clinics have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital.

Justice Stephen Breyer wrote the majority opinion, which said that the Louisiana law was almost identical to a Texas law that was ruled unconstitutional in 2016. Although Chief Justice John Roberts had dissented with the 2016 decision, he concurred with the 2020 one, writing, "The legal doctrine of stare decisis requires us, absent special circumstances, to treat like cases alike. The Louisiana law imposes a burden on access to abortion just as severe as that imposed by the Texas law, for the same reasons. Therefore Louisiana's law cannot stand under our precedents."

March for Life President Jeanne Mancini said the organization was "appalled" by the decision.

"The legislation at issue in June Medical Services v. Russo was designed to safeguard women's health and safety, which the abortion business in Louisiana egregiously sidelined for the sake of profit. No abortion facility should receive a free pass to provide substandard care."

Deaconess Tiffany Manor, director of LCMS Life Ministry, said, "As Christians, we feel profound disappointment in the June v. Russo ruling. It is clear that we, the people who serve in LCMS Life Ministry, have much to do. We pray. We live out our vocations in the family and as citizens in society. We love and serve our neighbors with tangible acts of mercy.

"We pray the words of Psalm 121, 'I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.' He provides the help we need and never disappoints."

Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue

On June 30, in a 5-4 vote, the Supreme Court upheld a tax credit for private schools in Montana. The Montana Supreme Court had struck down the program, arguing that it violated the state's ban on state aid to religious schools.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, which said, "A state need not subsidize private education, but once it decides to do so, it cannot disqualify some private schools because they are religious."

The ruling calls into question the constitutionality of many current state restrictions on using public funds for religious schools. Many of these restrictions can be traced to the 19th century, when U.S. Representative James Blaine of Maine proposed an amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting any state funds raised for public schools to be "under the control of any religious sect" or "divided between religious sects or denominations."

The Blaine Amendment failed ratification, but many states put similar "Blaine" provisions into their state constitutions. The full impact of the Espinoza decision will not be known for years, but it could open up additional funding paths for religious schools and widen the range of educational choices to which parents have access by making it more difficult for states to discriminate against religious schools in matters of funding.

(Continued on Page 7)

Sue Nahmensen, CEO of the St. Louis-based Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA), an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, described the Espinoza ruling as a “victory for families who deserve the right to choose the best educational system for their children, and for the educators in faith-based schools who are committed to preparing children for whatever their futures may hold — academically, emotionally and spiritually. ... [LESA] believes this ruling will have a positive impact on educational opportunities for children and families in our community.”

Dr. Rebecca Schmidt, director of LCMS School Ministry, agreed, describing the ruling as “a momentous decision ... [which] opens the doors for future children to hear the Gospel message.”

Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania

On July 8, in a 7-2 decision, the Court ruled that the federal government acted legally in creating exemptions to the 2010 Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) contraception mandate for employers whose moral and religious principles preclude the providing of contraception. The ACA requires employers to provide cost-free coverage for contraceptives, sterilizations and “emergency birth control” in employee health plans.

In 2017, the Trump administration granted a religious and moral exemption to the mandate for employers that object to it on the basis of conscience, including the Little Sisters of the Poor, an international congregation of Roman Catholic women that serves the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world. Several states filed lawsuits claiming that the administration had violated the Administrative Procedure Act in setting up the exemption, but the Court concluded that the administration had not acted improperly.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote, in the majority opinion, “For over 150 years, the Little Sisters have engaged in faithful service and sacrifice, motivated by a religious calling to surrender all for the sake of their brother. ... But for the past seven years, they — like many other religious objectors who have participated in the litigation and rulemakings leading up to today’s decision — have had to fight for the ability to continue in their noble work without violating their sincerely held religious beliefs.

“After two decisions from this Court and multiple failed regulatory attempts, the Federal Government has arrived at a solution that exempts the Little Sisters from the source of their complicity-based concerns — the administratively imposed contraceptive mandate.”

Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch wrote a concurring opinion arguing that the court should have also ruled that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) requires the challenged religious exemption to the contraception mandate and that, by not doing so, the court “will prolong the legal battle in which the Little Sisters have now been engaged for seven years — even though during all this time no employee of the Little Sisters has come forward with an objection to the Little Sisters’ conduct.”

Seltz applauded the ruling, calling it “mind-boggling” that the Little Sisters had to go through almost 10 years of litigation to be able to follow their conscience, “especially when it’s a conscience built on serving, caring and a humility that we all could emulate.”

Manor said she was thankful for the ruling, but added, “The concerning aspect ... is that it allows for future presidents’ administrations to revoke the exemptions currently granted. Christians will need to continue to be active in the public square, professing the faith clearly and winsomely.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Agnes Morrissey-Berru and St. James School v. Darryl Biel

On July 8, the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of two religious schools that had been sued by former teachers. The teachers claimed the schools had discriminated against them when their employment was terminated, but the schools held that the terminations were protected under the “ministerial exception” granted to religious employers.

In the majority opinion, Justice Samuel Alito wrote, “The religious education and formation of students is the very reason for the existence of most private religious schools, and therefore the selection and supervision of the teachers upon whom the schools rely to do this work lie at the core of their mission. Judicial review of the way in which religious schools discharge those responsibilities would undermine the independence of religious institutions in a way that the First Amendment does not tolerate.”

Eric Rassbach, legal counsel for the schools and attorney for Becket, a religious liberty advocacy group, said, “Today is a huge win for religious schools of all faith traditions. ... The last thing government officials should do is decide who is authorized to teach Catholicism to Catholics or Judaism to Jews. We are glad the Court has resoundingly reaffirmed that churches and synagogues, not government, control who teaches kids about God.”

Seltz noted that the case was undergirded by the 2012 Supreme Court case, *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church & School v. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission*, which involved an LCMS school in Detroit.

“One of the reasons we get involved in these kinds of issues is so that we can protect our voice in the culture,” Seltz said. “We have to learn to speak the truth of God’s Word in love, with humility and graciousness. That means we’ve got to study our Bibles more than ever.

“We have to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We can’t keep walking into buzz saws. We have to use our First Amendment freedoms ... so that we can boldly and joyfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ without coercion and without fear.”

PROPERS PREVIEWS

A look at the readings to help you prepare for worship

August 2, 2020

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5 Let everyone who hungers and thirsts be satisfied in the food and drink the Lord provides.

Romans 9:1-5 Paul speaks of his kinship to the Jews and how their genealogy is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus feeds the 5,000 with the miracle of loaves and fishes and all were satisfied.

August 9, 2020

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:4-18 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the world?

Romans 10:5-17 Paul is discussing how we may attain the righteousness that leads to salvation.

Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walks on the water as He comes to calm the fears of His disciples.

August 16, 2020

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 The Lord will even gather the strangers into His house of praise.

Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 God desires to have mercy on all people.

Matthew 15:21-28 Jesus marvels at the faith of a woman who comes seeking mercy for her daughter.

August 23, 2020

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6 Isaiah reminds Israel that God's actions in the past are the basis for hope in the present.

Romans 11:33-12:8 God's wisdom and knowledge are beyond our comprehension.

Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus asks and Peter answers: You are the Lord!

August 30, 2020

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21 The prophet complains that his faithful preaching of the word of God has brought only angry violence from his hearers.

Romans 12:9-21 Paul instructs the Roman Christians on how to live as Christians in an unfriendly world.

Matthew 16:21-28 After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry.

THOSE WHO SERVE

ASSISTING MINISTERS AT 10:15 a.m. SERVICE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST HAVE NOT BEEN SCHEDULED

Brandon Chornobroff will be the Elder at the 8:00 a.m. services (unless otherwise noted)

Lynne Berghoff will be the Lector on the first Sunday of each month.

Denise Abdul-Malak, Head Elder, 732-406-1531, schedules Assisting Ministers

ALTAR GUILD

Lisa Tess, Elba Hillis and Anne McDonnell

Lisa Tess, 732-905-0687, is Directress of the Altar Guild.

Members serve for one month on a rotating basis.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please place \$25 per bouquet in a Flower Fund Envelope (which can be found in the Flower Book) and place it in the offering plate. There is a maximum of three bouquets on the altar each week.

USHERS and ACOLYTES are advised to remain home until further notice.



Congratulations to Ginny and Pastor on the birth of their grandson! This July, their son Anskar and his wife Summer welcomed their new baby boy, Eivind.